

Edward Bleike Baldinger Jr.

Edward Bleike Baldinger, Jr., born on November 20, 1922, died on October 23, 2019 at the age of 96.

He was the son of the late Edward B. Baldinger, Sr. of Galveston, TX, and Roberta Florence Smith Baldinger of Elkins, West Virginia. Survived by 2 sons, Edward B. Baldinger, III (wife Debra) of Ocean Springs, MS, and Mickal A. Baldinger of New Orleans, LA, and his devoted companion, Nancy Hoover Gates of Metairie, LA. Also survived by his niece, Linda McTurnan of Jasper, TX, and nephews Robert Cahal of Dunnellon FL, Robert Mueller of OK, and Harold Mueller of Seattle, WA. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 59 years, Mary Agreggaard Baldinger (12/16/08), his brother George Pratt Baldinger, and his two sisters, Louise Gayle Baldinger Cahal of Jasper, TX and Beatrice "Boo" Baldinger Mueller of Marietta, OH.

He was a graduate of Rugby Academy and the Georgia Military Academy of College Park, GA. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University in 1943. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma (social) and Kappa Delta Phi (honorary leadership) fraternities. He served as Alumnus Advisor of Sigma (Tulane) chapter and District Grand Master (District X) and Boyd House Prize Committee Chairman of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He was a member of the Tulane Football Team of 1942.

During World War II, he served in the European Theater with the 89th Infantry Division, of Patton's 3rd Army. He earned 2 battle stars, a Good Conduct Medal, and numerous combat infantry badges. During the war, the Baldinger Lumber Company was the main supplier of wood for the Higgins Boat, which helped win the war. The company was run by his mother, while the men of the family were in the service. The family home, which was the Bonnabel Plantation House, was converted into an air raid station. Many of the Civil Defense items were later donated to the Smithsonian for their WW II exhibit. He was a President of the Lumberman's Club of New Orleans, the Woods Unlimited and Retail Lumberman's Club of New Orleans. A member of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Building Materials Dealers and the Forestry Committee of the Lumbermen's Merchandising Corporation of Wayne, PA. He was a Bronze Life Master and served 6 years as President of the Louisiana Bridge Association, Unit 134. He was also a member of the ACBL Charity Committee and the Good Will Committee. He served as a volunteer for 20 years and over 3,000 hours at the East Jefferson General Hospital, and was a 15 year veteran of the AARP tax aide program, serving as Instructor, District Coordinator, and Tax Consultant. He was a member of American Legion Post 267, the T Club and the Hilltoppers Club. A Funeral Mass will be held at the Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd., New Orleans on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 11:00 AM. A visitation will begin at 10am. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the East Jefferson General Hospital Foundation. The family invites you to share your thoughts, fond memories, and condolences online at www.lakelawnmetairie.com.